HEALTH
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IRLAM URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORTS

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and

SANITARY INSPECTOR

for the year 1941.

IRLAM URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Councillors D. Hesford (Chairman).
J. Adams.
E. Brew, J.P. (Chairman of the Council).
A. Briggs.
J. G. Enticott, J.P.
J. H. Jones.
A. J. Keal.
J. McLean, J.P.,C.C.
W.H.J. Marshall.
F.J. Melville, J.P.
E. Owen.
R. Sutton.

OFFICIALS and STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health and Medical Superintendent Child Welfare Clinic .....JOSEPH W. ROBERTS, L.S.A.,Lond.

Sanitary Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent .....L.F. ATHERTON, M.S.I.A.,C.S.I.B.

Assistant Sanitary Inspector....C. R. PALING (Resigned 30/11/41).

VITAL STATISTICS.

	Males	Females	Total
Live Births - Legitimate	107	98	205
Illegitimate	3	4	7
Stillbirths	4	1	5
Birth rate			15.0
Deaths	69	41	110
Death rate			7.8
Deaths from Puerperal causes			nil
Death rate of infants under one year of age per 1,000 live births.....			70
Deaths from Measles			nil
Deaths from Diphtheria			1
Deaths from Diarrohea (under two years of age)			1
Deaths from Whooping Cough			1
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)			19

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year 1941.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Public Health Committee.

Gentlemen,

I beg to present my annual report on the health of the district for the year ended 31st December 1941.

The birthrate (15.0) showed a pleasing increase over the figure for the previous year (13.9).

The deathrate (7.8) is the lowest recorded during the past 34 years.

The general statistical summary including tables of local populations has been omitted for reasons of national security, and in the interests of economy the report has again been materially shortened.

Yours obediently,

Medical Officer of Health.

PHYSICAL AND SOCIAL.

The county district of Irlam is roughly square in shape, with sides over three and a half miles long.

A considerable area of the great Chat Moss comes within the district boundaries and, being unfit for building purposes, is almost all under cultivation. This provides a relieving contrast to the remainder of the area which is intensely industrial in character.

Employment in the district is good, and no conditions have been noted of occupation or environment which appear to have had a prejudicial effect on health.

BIRTHS.

The total number of births belonging to the district after the necessary adjustments for inward and outward transfers was 212, giving a birthrate of 15.0 against 13.9 for the previous year.

DEATHS.

The number of deaths registered in the district was 75, but deducting 2 deaths of persons not usually resident in this district and adding 37 deaths of residents which occurred in other districts, the corrected number was 110.

This gave a deathrate of 7.8 per 1,000 of population compared with 9.6 in 1940.

INFANT MORTALITY.

There were 15 deaths of children under one year of age, giving a deathrate of 70 per 1,000 live births, compared with 30 for the previous year.

CANCER.

There were 19 deaths from cancer, giving a rate of 1.34 per 1,000 of the population.

ORGANIC HEART DISEASE.

17 deaths, giving a deathrate of 1.2 per 1,000 of the population, compared with 2.2 in the previous year.

RESPIRATORY ORGANS.

13 deaths (bronchitis, pneumonia and other respiratory diseases), giving a deathrate of 0.92 per 1,000, compared with 25 deaths giving a deathrate of 1.7 for 1940.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The table below gives the incidence of notifiable infectious diseases. Compared with the previous year there were reductions in the number of cases of scarlet fever and measles, and an increase in the number of cases of whooping cough.

The Council's scheme for artificial immunisation against diphtheria was put into operation in the last quarter of the year, and secured a good response from parents.

Diphtheria antitoxin is available to all medical practitioners at the Public Health Office.

TABLE OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than tuberculosis).

Disease	Number notified	Removed to Hospital	Total Deaths
Acute Poliomyelitis	1	1	-
Scarlet Fever	15	-	-
Diphtheria	13	9	1
Enteric Fever	2	1	-
Whooping Cough	163	-	1
Acute Pneumonia	34	3	10
Puerperal pyrexia	2	1	-
Cerebro-spinal fever	2	2	-
Erysipelas	4	-	-
Measles	88	-	-
Ophthalmia neonatorum	2	-	-
TOTALS	326	17	12

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

Number of children immunised during the year:

Pre-school age 191
School age 1012
1203

DISINFECTION was carried out by spraying infected rooms with formalin solution and fumigating with vapour. Disinfectants are supplied free.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION IN DIAGNOSIS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following is a statement of the bacteriological examinations of specimens sent from this district during the year:

Diphtheria		Enteric Fever		Tuberculosis	
Total	Positive	Total	Positive	Total	Positive
29	9	8	2	63	2

UBERCULOSIS.

Particulars of new cases of Tuberculosis and of deaths from the isease are given in the following table:

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
1-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
5-	-	-	4	2	-	-	-	-
10-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
20-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25-	1	2	-	-	-	4	-	-
35-	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
45-	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	-
55-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 & upwards	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	5	4	5	5	1	4	-	1

The notification of tuberculosis was satisfactory, and it was ot found necessary to take any action regarding cases of neglect or efusal to notify. All deaths from tuberculosis were previously otified.

ENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

OSPITAL ACCOMMODATION.

(a) Infectious Diseases other than Smallpox. The scheme submitted o the Minister of Health by the Lancashire County Council under ection 63 of the Local Government Act, 1929, for the provision of dequate hospital accommodation in connection with the treatment of nfectious diseases in the county, provides that for infectious isease other than smallpox, Irlam should be grouped with the Boroughs f Stretford and Eccles, and the Urban Districts of Farnworth and rmston; these authorities constituting Area XXV of the county scheme. he minimum number of beds to be provided for the area is 110, and he Urban District Council is responsible for the reservation of 0 of this number.

The Minister's approval to the County Scheme was received in ebruary 1938, and in May 1938 an agreement was completed between he Salford Corporation and the authorities concerned for the reatment of patients at the Ladywell Sanatorium.

(b) Smallpox. For the provision of adequate hospital accommodaion for the treatment of smallpox, the County Scheme includes Irlam n Area XIV along with the Borough of Eccles, and six beds are equired to be reserved for the two authorities.

(b) Smallpox contd.

Several joint meetings have been held between the representatives of Eccles and Irlam and, at the end of the year, negotiations were in progress for the reservation of six beds at Salford Corporation's smallpox hospital, Drinkwater Park.

Pending satisfactory completion of the new scheme the urban Council remains a party to a special agreement with Manchester Corporation for the treatment of smallpox cases at Clayton Hospital.

(c) General. For general purposes the hospitals in Manchester, Salford and Flixton were utilised.

The Public Assistance hospitals for the area are at Patricroft and Flixton.

There is no institutional provision in the district for unmarried mothers, illegitimate or homeless children.

No day nurseries, tuberculosis dispensaries or clinics for the treatment of venereal diseases are provided in the district.

The Council makes annual contributions to the Manchester and Salford medical charities and the Eccles hospital.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

(a) Infectious cases are removed in the motor ambulances provided by the Salford Corporation.

(b) A motor ambulance is provided and maintained by the Council, and is available day and night, for the removal of cases of accident or sudden illness, and by arrangements for cases requiring hospital or surgical treatment. The service was adequate. Statistical information as to the use and cost of the Council's service is given in the Sanitary Inspector's report.

MORTUARY.

Six bodies were brought into the mortuary during the year, (residents 5, non-residents 1).

PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOME.

Through the local District Nursing Association the services of a nurse are available for general nursing. The Association is entirely voluntary.

There is no employment of (or subsidy to) practising midwives in the district by the Council. The Midwives Act is administered by the Lancashire County Council. There were four midwives practising in the district.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE WORK.

This work is administered by the Lancashire County Council. There are two clinics in the district, and sessions were held once a week throughout the year on Wednesdays. Good attendances were maintained.

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

No maternal death was notified during the year.

SCHOOLS.

All schools in the district are visited at regular intervals by the County Council inspecting staff, and in addition, your officials make periodical inspections concerning sanitary arrangements generally.

CAUSES OF DEATH for the year 1941. Classified under the headings of the Abridged List of Causes.

Cause of Death	Males	Females	Totals
Diphtheria	1	-	1
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	1	4	5
Other Tuberculosis	-	1	1
Cancer	12	7	19
Intra. cran. vasc. lesions	6	5	11
Heart Disease	12	5	17
Other Circulatory Diseases	3	1	4
Pneumonia (all forms)	6	4	10
Bronchitis	2	1	3
Diabetes	1	-	1
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	-	1	1
Syphilitic diseases	1	-	1
Premature birth	4	1	5
Influenza	1	-	1
Diarrhoea under 2 years	1	-	1
Nephritis	3	1	4
Road traffic accidents	3	1	4
Other Digestive Diseases	2	1	3
Congenital Debility	3	1	4
Suicide	1	-	1
Violence	1	1	2
Other Defined Diseases	4	6	10
Whooping Cough	1	-	1
Totals	69	41	110

Cases of INFECTIOUS DISEASE notified during the year 1941, other than Tuberculosis.

Disease	Total Cases	At Ages - Years												Cases Removed to Hospital	Total Deaths
		Under 1	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	35-	45-	65 & over		
Scarlet Fever ..	15	-	-	-	5	1	5	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
Diphtheria	13	-	-	1	2	1	3	3	1	2	-	-	-	9	1
Enteric fever .	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Measles	88	2	7	11	17	23	20	5	-	2	1	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough.	163	10	19	17	31	28	56	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Acute Pneumonia ...	34	-	2	1	1	2	4	-	4	1	4	10	5	3	10
Puerperal pyrexia	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	1	-
Cerebro-spinal fever	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	2	-
Acute Polio-myelitis	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Ophthalmia neonatorum ..	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2	-	-
Totals	326	14	28	30	57	55	89	14	6	9	6	11	7	17	12

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

SANITARY INSPECTOR

for the year 1941.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Public Health Committee.

I beg to submit my report on the sanitary conditions and circumstances of the district for the year ended 31st December 1941.

Reductions in skilled labour and shortage of materials made it difficult to secure adequate housing repairs. Notices served under Public Health and Housing Acts required the execution of only essential repairs and replacements.

Considerable attention was again devoted to the inspection of food supplies, and a list of the commodities surrendered as unfit for food is included in the report.

The ambulance service was transferred from the Fire Station to new quarters at Irlam Hall in February, and functioned satisfactorily during the year.

The combined services of refuse and salvage collections continued and good results were obtained in spite of labour difficulties.

Yours obediently,

Sanitary Inspector.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

Water Supply. Nine properties in the outlying parts of the district receive water supplies from the county borough of Warrington. The remainder of the district is served by the mains of the Manchester Corporation. Supplies were constant and of good quality.

Rivers and Streams. Frequent inspections were made of rivers and streams.

Two complaints concerning the flooding of agricultural land were dealt with by the County land drainage engineer, this department rendering assistance whenever possible.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

With the exception of a small number of isolated houses, chiefly on the Moss area, all properties are connected to the sewers.

Sewers and drains are regularly flushed.

The activated sludge system is the method employed at the Council's sewage works, and a satisfactory effluent was maintained.

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION.

The following approximate particulars are given of the sanitary accommodation in the district at the end of 1941:

Fresh-water closets	4825
Waste-water closets	21
Privy-middens	20
Pail-closets	82

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

No action during 1941.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

The standards adopted by the Council for regulating the trade of fish-fryer have been generally complied with. All premises were visited regularly.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS.

During the year, the following visits were made:

Nature of inspections.	Visits.
General sanitation (Public Health and Housing Acts)	212
Housing Inspections (Consolidated Regulations)	37
Cowsheds, dairies and milkshops	21
Foodshops and premises	131
Factories and other premises	19
Public cleansing service	103
Re infectious diseases	64
Re Shops Act 1934	23
Miscellaneous	50

COMPLAINTS.

72 complaints were received during the year, details of which are as follows:

Nature of complaint.	Number received.
Housing defects	20
Choked or defective drains	10
Accumulation of refuse etc.....	6
Verminous houses	5
Nuisances from smoke and fumes	2
General insanitary conditions	13
Miscellaneous	16
	72

All complaints were investigated and the necessary action taken.

HOUSING.

Statistics.

Number of new houses erected during the year:

(a) Total (including numbers given separately under (b)) ..... Nil.
- (1) By the Local Authority ..... -
- (2) By other Local Authorities ..... -
- (3) By other Bodies or persons ..... -

(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts:
- (1) By the Local Authority (included under (a)(1) above) ..... -
- (2) By other bodies or persons (included under (a)(3) above) ..... -

1. Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year:
   - (1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts).....136
   - (2) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 37
   - (3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation .... -
   - (4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 58

2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices:

   Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers 39

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year:

   A. Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.

   No action necessary.

   B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts:
   - (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 2
   - (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices.

     By owners 2

3 contd.

C. Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:
No demolition orders were made during 1941.

4. Housing Act, 1936 - Overcrowding:
One case of overcrowding was relieved during the year.

NUISANCES ABATED AND WORK DONE.

87 preliminary and 2 statutory notices were served during the year. The following statement gives details of the work carried out under the supervision of the Department:

House walls repaired	14
Gutters and downspouts repaired	7
Ceilings and walls re-plastered	8
Leaking roofs repaired	5
New sinks provided	1
Defective floors reconstructed	8
Dangerous firegrates rebuilt	4
Yard surfaces reconstructed	4
Choked drains cleansed	5
Drains repaired or reconstructed	3
New dustbins provided	160
Accumulations removed	1
Dirty houses cleansed	6
Defective w.c.s replaced	3
Rat infestation	4
Miscellaneous	11

Eradication of Bed Bugs. 2 Council houses and 4 privately owned properties were treated with hydrocyanic acid gas; the work being done by a contractor. The Council does not undertake disinfestation work.

Frequent visits of inspection were made by the sanitary inspector and housing estates manager in connection with the supervision and education of tenants to prevent infestation or re-infestation of Council properties.

MILK AND DAIRIES ACTS AND ORDERS.

There were four cowkeepers with registered premises in the district and these were found to be generally satisfactory. Other registered dairy premises were well-maintained.

Two samples of milk supplied to schools were examined for tubercle bacilli; both samples were reported to be satisfactory.

GRADED MILKS.

The following licences were granted under the Milk (Special Designations) Orders, 1936 and 1938:

To retail "Accredited" milk 2
To retail "Pasteurised" milk 1

One dairyman was granted a licence to pasteurise milk. Frequent inspections of the pasteurising plant were made during the year.

MEAT.

There are no registered or licensed slaughterhouses in the district. Butchers' shops were frequently inspected.

OTHER FOOD PREMISES.

Vehicles for the conveyance of food and places where food is prepared were regularly inspected.

FOOD INSPECTION.

The following is a list of foods surrendered, during the year, as unfit for human consumption:

	lbs.
Beef	440
Mutton	498
Pork	17
Fish	70
Poultry	161
Pressed beef	82
Brawn	27
Sausages	24
Bacon	19
Butter	58
Sugar	20
Apples	112
Eggs	1 case
Tinned vegetables	6 tins.

SHOPS ACT 1934.

23 inspections were made of shops and the provisions of the Act respecting heating, ventilation and sanitary accommodation were found to be reasonably complied with.

PUBLIC CLEANSING SERVICE.

During the year a number of complaints were dealt with concerning the infrequent removal of house refuse. The irregularities were occasioned chiefly by the increased demands of the salvage effort which made it impossible to maintain the pre-war standard of a weekly collection of refuse. Fortnightly and, during the winter months, three-weekly collections became the rule. Apart from the complaints referred to the service operated smoothly and satisfactorily throughout the year.

The bulk of refuse was disposed of at the salvage and incineration plant, the remainder by tipping.

Urgent repairs to the fabric of the cleansing depot, Fairhills Road, were carried out by the surveyor's department.

SALVAGE.

The district took part in the Lancashire County salvage drive held in October and the result, in tons of salvage, was very gratifying. In this effort the W.V.S., the schools, the private firms and the press were of great assistance, and the staff of the department were for some weeks after the event engaged in removing and disposing of large accumulations of salvage.

The Ministry of Supply's direction to collect the various types of salvage was extended during 1941 to include textiles, and a small though steady supply of these was maintained.

AMBULANCE SERVICE.

276 calls for services were received as a result of accident or illness, and the following particulars are given of the service rendered during the year:

Cases attended :	Accidents	30
	Other cases	246
	Total	276

Journeys were made to and from the undermentioned hospitals:

	To	From	Total
Park Hospital, Flixton	5	-	5
Salford Royal Hospital	35	13	48
Manchester Royal Infirmary	7	-	7
Stretford Memorial Hospital	1	1	2
Green Lane Institution	11	1	12
Ancoats Hospital, Manchester	8	4	12
Manchester Northern Hospital	-	7	7
St Mary's Hospital, Manchester	5	6	11
Eccles and Patricroft Hospital	4	5	9
Christie's Hospital, Manchester ...	8	3	11
Hope Hospital, Salford	36	3	39
Abbotsfield Hospital, Flixton	60	13	73
Other hospitals	5	2	7
	185	58	243
To or from premises other than hospitals			33
			276

The total mileage registered was 5275.5, giving an average of 19.1 miles per journey.